

## INT'L COMMUNITY TAKES NOTICE OF THE PLIGHT OF AHMADIS IN PAKISTAN

**Geneva, New York, London etc.; July 2021:**

In the last few weeks, anti-Ahmadi developments in Pakistan compelled the International Community to take notice of the violations of basic human rights and freedom of religion there.

Briefly:

United Nation Human Rights Council took note of the proceedings of the Side Event at the occasion of its 47th annual session. It issued a statement of the three UN Rapporteurs at the occasion. The covering note mentioned:

*"It is of utmost importance to shed light on the persistent human rights violations and the rising acts of discrimination against the Ahmadi Muslims worldwide, which we find deeply worrying"*, the experts said. Pakistan was mentioned repeatedly in this context during the discourses at the Event.

Thereafter, at a Hearing organized by Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, on July 13, 2021, Amjad Mahmood Khan, Esq, an attorney of repute spoke on the issue of Religious Freedom Around the Globe; he was specific about Ahmadis in Pakistan. His convincing and readable address is available on the internet. He took special note of the fact, the mischief of Cyber Laws and the unbridled powers that Section 37 of PECA gives the PTA, has spilled over to Ahmadis outside Pakistan. On December 24, 2020, he and his colleague Harris Zafar, another US citizen received legal notices from PTA, with threatened penalties under PECA rules. He is going to challenge the PTA action. He quoted the U.S. State Department against these Cyber Laws as a *"setback to freedom of expression, development of digital economy"*.

In July 2020, 40 MPs of the United Kingdom issued their report on the plight of Ahmadis, titled: *Suffocation of the Faithful —The Persecution of Ahmadi Muslims in Pakistan/the Rise of International Extremism*.

More recently, E.U. Parliament adopted a resolution calling for a review of Pakistan's GSP+ status over blasphemy law abuse and its impact on minorities. Thereafter, Pakistan remained on the Grey List.

Now, the religious lobby is going to down-

play the impact of this notice by the international community. This lobby is bigoted and shortsighted, so are some politicians who care only for votes in the next elections.

As friends of Pakistan, we humbly and faithfully urge Pakistan leadership to make a fresh assessment of the long-term damage to Pakistan's well-being and security by the current policy of the state and the actions of its society, especially the politico-religious parties and the ulama in the country.

Recently, Aljazeera produced a report, titled: *'When the blood starts: Spike in Ahmadi persecution in Pakistan'*. It is readable, and is available at:

[Aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/Ahmadi-persecution-pakistan-blasphemy-islam](https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/7/26/Ahmadi-persecution-pakistan-blasphemy-islam)

General Kiyani of Pakistan who developed the reputation of being the most powerful general in the world said before his eventual retirement as the COAS, *"Existential threat to Pakistan is internal, not external."* *The Friday Times of June 13, 2014.*

## A SIDE-EVENT AT UNHRC ON PERSECUTION OF AHMADI MUSLIMS WORLDWIDE

**Brussels-EU, July 13, 2021:**

CAP Freedom of Conscience held an online Event during the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council. Its topic was *'Persecution of Ahmadi Muslims Worldwide'*.

Sir Edward Davey, Leader of the Liberal Democrats, chaired the event. The speakers included, inter alia:

- Dr. Ahmad Shaheed (UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief)
- Dr. Fernand de Varennes (UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues)
- Ms. Irene Khan (UN Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression)

After the Event, the UNHR High Commissioner Office issued a three-page statement by the three Rapporteurs. It is reproduced in Annex IV in this report. It is also available at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27305&LangID=E>

The statement mentions *"reports of religious intolerance, discrimination and violence perpetrated against this Community by state officials as well as non-state actors in a number of countries, including Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka."*

The Statement, politely, did not highlight the leading role played in this context by Pakistan in the above shortlist. However, the proceedings of the Event repeatedly mentioned the anti-Ahmadiyya activities and events in Pakistan. It is no use sweeping the dirt under the carpet and saying, *"No, it is all false, no such things are happening in Pakistan"*, as is often done to reports issued by USCIRF and Amnesty International, etc. The correct attitude and reaction would be to study the Statement carefully and put right all that can be put right; it would be more in the interest of Pakistan than the UN HR Council.



**Dr. Ahmad Shaheed**

*(UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief)*



**Dr. Fernand de Varennes**

*(UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues)*



**Ms. Irene Khan**

*(UN Special Rapporteur on Promotion and Protection of Freedom of Opinion and Expression)*